



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

May 17, 2026
Ascension Sunday

Morning Worship

8:15 & 11:00 a.m.

The order of worship for the evening service begins on page 8.

Prelude: The prelude is a time for quiet reflection and preparation. As the music begins, worshipers are invited to center their hearts on God and enter the presence of the Holy.

THE GLORY OF OUR ASCENDED KING

PRELUDE: "Prelude and Fugue in G Major, BWV 541".....J.S. Bach

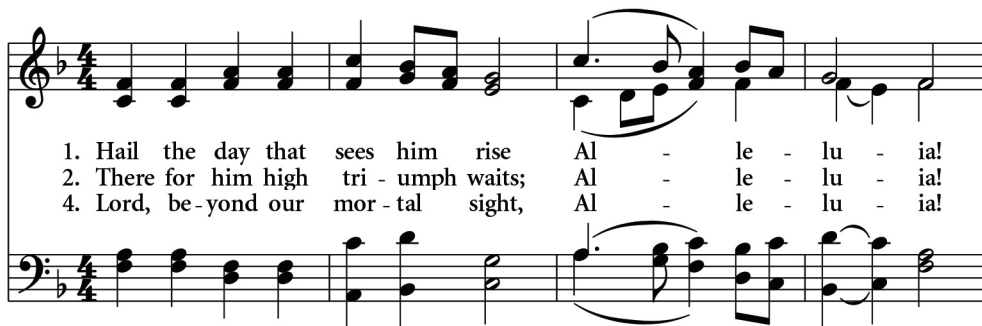
Leo Davis, organ

Call to Worship: God invites us into His presence to worship in spirit and in truth—beginning a dialogue that continues throughout the service.

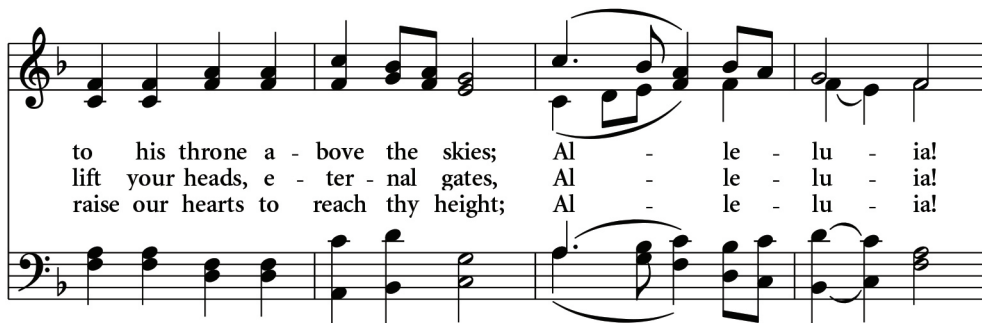
♠CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 67:1-3.....Damon Conley

♠HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 249 "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" LLANFAIR

Words: Charles Wesley / Music: Robert Williams / Psalm 24:7



1. Hail the day that sees him rise Al - le - lu - ia!
2. There for him high tri - umph waits; Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Lord, be - yond our mor - tal sight, Al - le - lu - ia!



to his throne a - bove the skies; Al - le - lu - ia!
lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates, Al - le - lu - ia!
raise our hearts to reach thy height; Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners giv'n, Al - le - lu - ia!
 he hath con-quer'd death and sin, Al - le - lu - ia!
 there thy face un - cloud - ed see, Al - le - lu - ia!

en - ters now the high - est heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
 take the King of glo - ry in! Al - le - lu - ia!
 find our heav'n of heav'ns in thee! Al - le - lu - ia!

✦ INVOCATION

Invocation: The word invocation means "to appeal to" or "cry out to." In this prayer, we lift our hands and call on our Father to come and help us worship Him for who He is and all He has done.

THE GRACE OF OUR ASCENDED KING

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest,
 who has ascended to the right hand of God
 to make intercession for us,
 have mercy upon us,
 for we have sinned against You
 and have done that which is evil in Your sight.
 Forgive our foolishness and our hard-heartedness.
 Cleanse us from our sin
 and renew a right spirit within us,
 that we might worship and serve You aright
 as the King of kings and Lord of lords,
 now and forevermore.**

Assurance of Pardon: Having confessed our sins, the pastor declares God's promise of forgiveness—assuring us that through Christ's atonement, those who truly repent are freed from guilt and shame by His mercy.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON..... Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

Give Online: 2pc.org/give

Give by Text: Text SECOND to (901) 410-9500 to give to the General Fund.
Text WORLD to the same number to give to World Missions.

Give by Mail: Second Presbyterian Church, 4055 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Walk Together, Children" Garrett Heady

Words and Music: African American Spiritual; arr. Garrett Heady / Amos 3:3

We're gonna walk, we're gonna pray, we're gonna sing, we're gonna shout,
There's a great camp meeting in the promised land.

Walk together, children, don't you get weary.
We're gonna walk and never tire.
Pray together, children, don't you get weary.
We're gonna pray and never tire.
We're gonna sing and never tire.
We're gonna shout and never tire.

"Do two walk together, unless they have agreed to meet?" (Amos 3:3) This verse reflects the unity and shared purpose of the faithful, reminding us that our walk with God—and with one another—is rooted in common trust and direction.

*The Chancel Choir
Garrett Heady, conductor*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYING FOR OUR FUTURE MINISTRY: SHARE

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN. Danielle Miles

THE WORD OF OUR ASCENDED GOD

✦PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

✦HYMN OF PREPARATION: No. 546 "Before the Throne of God Above" BEFORE THE THRONE

Words and Music: Charitie Lees Bancroft, Vikki Cook; arr. Bruce Greer / Hebrews 4:14-16

strong and per - fect plea; a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him
spot - less righ - teous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I

Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. One with him -

grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
self I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his

heart, I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God!

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

SERMON: Ascending Joy Josh Preston

I. Face: Gracious Gaze

II. Ears: Attentive Ear

III. Feet: Sovereign Reign

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

♣HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 256 "Crown Him with Many Crowns" DIADEMATA

Words: Matthew Bridges, Godfrey Thring / Music: Sir George Job Elvey / Revelation 19:12

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne:
 3. Crown him the Lord of life: who tri - umphed o'er the grave,
 4. Crown him the Lord of heav'n: one with the Fa - ther known,

hark! how the heav'n-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
 who rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 one with the Spir - it through him giv'n from yon - der glo - rious throne.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died and rose on high,
 To thee be end - less praise, for thou for us hast died;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died e - ter - nal life to bring and lives that death may die.
 be thou, O Lord, through end-less days a - dorned and mag - ni - fied.

Benediction: God's people receive the Lord's blessing and are sent into the world, carrying the hope of the Gospel.

♠BENEDICTION

♠BENEDICTION RESPONSE: "The Blessing" Kari Jobe

The Lord bless you and keep you,
make His face shine up - on you, and be gra - cious to You.
The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace.
A - men, a - men, a - men.

♠POSTLUDE: Improvisation on "We Shall Overcome" Carl Haywood

♠Indicates congregation standing

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Praying for Our Future Ministry

Over the past year, our staff and Session have been prayerfully seeking the Lord's direction for the next 10 years of ministry at Second. Since April 26, we've highlighted four areas of ministry during morning worship—worship, reach, grow, and share—with today's video concluding the series. We've also adopted a specific prayer focus for each of these areas.

Focus This Week: Share

We pray to be a church community that generously shares our time, spiritual gifts, financial resources, and physical spaces, using our campus as a welcoming hub for worship, outreach, and spiritual formation.

How to Join in Prayer

A prayer card is inserted into your bulletin today. Please reference it often throughout the summer, using the Scripture passages and prayer statements to guide your prayers as we seek the Lord's shaping and leading for our future together. We'll gather on a Sunday evening in August to celebrate and step deeper into what the Lord has for us!

Sunday Night Worship

6:00 p.m.

Call to Worship: God invites us into His presence to worship in spirit and in truth—beginning a dialogue that continues throughout the service.

♣CALL TO WORSHIP..... Chuck Jacob

♣THIS IS THE DAY..... Fred Hammond

Words and Music: Everett Williams, Jr.; arr. Fred Hammond / Psalm 118:24

**This is the day, this is the day.
That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
I will rejoice. I will rejoice,
And be glad in it!**

Invocation: The word invocation means “to appeal to” or “cry out to.” In this prayer, we lift our hands and call on our Father to come and help us worship Him for who He is and all He has done.

♣INVOCATION

WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

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TRUST IN GOD..... Brandon Lake, Chris Brown

Words and Music: Brandon Lake, Chris Brown; arr. Grant Wall / I Corinthians 1:9

♣*Congregation stands and joins at worship team’s direction*

**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine,
He’s been my fourth man in the fire, time after time.
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood,
And what He did for me on Calvary is more than enough.**

*I trust in God, my Savior,
The One who will never fail.
He will never fail.*

**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I know the author of tomorrow has ordered my steps.
So this is my story, and this is my song,
I’m praising my risen King and Savior all the day long.**

He didn’t fail you then; He won’t fail you now.

**I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered.
I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered.
I sought the Lord, and He heard, and He answered.
That’s why I trust Him, that’s why I trust Him.**

♣PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

♣GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCRIPTURE LESSON.....Mark 12:1-44
(page 848 in pew Bible)

The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the Word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8)

SERMON: True ReligionBarton Kimbro

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

✦PROFESSION OF FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;**

**and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from there He will come to judge the living and the dead;**

The Apostles' Creed: This concise summary of core Christian beliefs offers a clear framework for understanding who God is, the work of Jesus, the nature of the Christian life, and our hope for eternity. Though not written by the apostles, it summarizes what they taught.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**universal*

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Words and Music: Martin Nystrom / Psalm 42

1. As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af-ter thee.
 2. You're my friend, you are my broth-er, e-ven though you are a King.
 3. I want you more than gold or sil-ver, on-ly you can sat-is-ify.

You a-lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship thee.
 I love you more than an-y oth-er, so much more than an-y-thing.
 You a-lone are the real joy-giv-er, and the ap-ple of my eye.

You a-lone are my strength, my shield, to you a-lone may my spir-it yield.

You a-lone are my heart's de-sire, and I long to wor-ship thee.

✦HYMN OF THANKSGIVING: I THANK GOD Housefires

Words and Music: Aaron Moses, Chuck Butler, Enrique Holmes, Jesse Cline / Luke 15:11-32

**Wandering into the night, wanting a place to hide
This weary soul, this bag of bones,
And I try with all my might, but I just can't win the fight;
I'm slowly drifting, a vagabond.**

**And just when I ran out of road,
I met a Man I didn't know,
And He told me that I was not alone.**

*He picked me up, He turned me around,
He placed my feet on solid ground.
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior,
Because He healed my heart,
He changed my name,
Forever free, I'm not the same.
I thank the Master, I thank the Savior—I thank God!*

**I cannot deny what I see; got no choice but to believe—
My doubts are burning like ashes in the wind.
So, so long to my old friends, burden and bitterness,
You can just keep it moving, nah, you ain't welcome here!**

**From now 'til I walk the streets of gold,
I'll sing of how You saved my soul.
This wayward son has found his way back home.**

Benediction: God's people receive the Lord's blessing and are sent into the world, carrying the hope of the Gospel.

✦BENEDICTION

✦GOSPEL AMEN

✦Indicates congregation standing

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**The 20th Class of
Memphis Fellows
Has Graduated!**

The Fellows program helps equip the next generation to root where they are planted. Over the past nine months, our Fellows have embraced Memphis—its challenges and its beauty—with open hearts and willing hands. Through a rich combination of work, service, study, mentorship, and community, they have invested deeply in our city and in the life of our church.

As they’ve grown personally and spiritually, the Fellows have learned to integrate their faith into every aspect of life. We give thanks for their presence among us and for their obedience to the Lord’s call to come to Memphis.

Please join us in celebrating this year’s Fellows: (back row, left to right) Grace Coates, Lauren Miley, Hannah Weber, Meg McGaha, (front row) Allison Jackson, Macy Tidmore, and KenTonya Cox.

THANK YOU!

Host Families

- The Amido Family
- The Blackmon Family
- The Ford Family
- The Gresham Family
- The Hurst Family
- The Lankford Family
- The Plosser Family
- The Wepfer Family

Mentors

- Kacey Cummins
- Antoinette Good
- Alissa Heirig
- Shelley Hill
- Danielle Miles
- Susan Warner
- Katie West

Work Placements

- Alcy Ball Development Corporation
- Barnhart Crane and Rigging
- Christian Psychological Center
- McCann Dentistry
- Meghan Warner
- Urology Group PC
- 2PC Children’s Ministry
- 2PC Recreation Ministry
- Rea Family
- Shelley Bolton
- St. Mary’s School

2026 Summer Youth Interns



Eve-Elyse Hall grew up in Memphis and currently serves with Run With Christ Memphis. She plans to graduate from Asbury University in December. After graduation, she will participate in a discipleship program in Hawaii before

moving to Denver to join a church plant. She is excited to build relationships with students this summer through Bible studies, conversations over coffee, and time spent together at 2PC.



Ava Shatley grew up in Jonesboro, where she was deeply involved in music throughout high school. She now attends the University of Memphis as a music industry major and is entering her senior year. During college, she has been actively

involved with Campus Outreach and her sorority, Alpha Gamma Delta. Ava is excited to spend the summer building relationships with students and serving the youth ministry at 2PC.



Luke Meeks was raised in Huntsville and has lived in Memphis for the past decade. He attends the University of Alabama in Huntsville and is pursuing a career in the medical field. Luke enjoys sports, video games, and reading, and he is

excited to invest in the lives of students at 2PC.



Law Wright grew up in Memphis and is a member of 2PC. He is currently studying business at Hendrix College, where he is also a member of the football team. Law is looking forward to serving alongside the youth ministry staff this summer

and spending time getting to know 2PC students.

New 2-Year Youth Resident



Charity Baxter was born and raised in the Memphis area and graduated from the Southwest Tennessee Community College Physical Therapist Assistant program in 2023. She also earned a certification in children's ministry through the PCA in 2025. She loves to read, crochet, line dance, and go on walks with friends. She is excited to invest in the

lives of students at 2PC and to be used by God as she builds relationships with them and points them to Christ in their everyday walks of faith.

May 24: Special Sunday School Hour Fellowship Time

Sunday School classes will not meet next Sunday, May 24, as we give our teachers and volunteers a well-deserved break. We invite everyone to enjoy a little extra time together that morning over coffee and donuts in the B Building lobby outside the bookstore following the 8:15 service and before the 11:00 service.

Caring Ministry Update

Sympathy to:

Wil Rainer and Daisye Rainer on the death of their brother, Alexandar Nichols Rainer, April 9, 2026. (*Kirby Woods Parish*)

Elise Frick on the death of her brother, Stephen Rutland Leffler, May 3, 2026. (*West Parish*)

Lisa Holliday on the death of her brother, Christopher Corbitt Lovelace, May 5, 2026. (*Belle Meade/The Village Parish*)

In the Hospital: (as of 5/13/26)

Jenny Udouj, *Hospice at Home*
(*Shelby Farms Parish*)

Carolyn Spratley, *Baptist Hospital*
Collierville (Senior Parish)

Weekly Prayer Focus

World Missions–Ruslan and Zhanna: Ruslan began working with youth at his church in 1998 and is currently the regional director of Young Life Central Asia. In partnership with Central Asian churches, Ruslan organizes summer and winter camps, youth clubs, and outreach events. Zhanna began ministering to children with cerebral palsy in 1999. She is now the director of the Capernaum Ministry and organizes camps, clubs, and events for children with special needs. She also trains churches in ministering to families with children with special needs. They are thankful that God has raised up many laborers for their Young Life ministry. Pray that the Holy Spirit would help the Gospel to be clearly communicated through Capernaum and that it would break through the darkness and superstition surrounding disability. Pray also that God would pour out His Spirit on Central Asia, raising up a worshipping generation.

Mission Memphis–Economic Opportunities: Economic Opportunities (EcOp) uses their unique Shepherds Work program model to deliver exceptional workers to courageous employers to reduce recidivism and increase economic mobility, self sufficiency, and living-wage income. The Shepherds Work program model aids justice-involved adults in gaining living-wage opportunities, enhanced decision-making skills, and goal-oriented habit development to achieve family restoration and the promotion of social justice in communities. Please pray for continued donations, grant funding, and recruitment of additional partners to further their mission. Pray for the Lord to continue using EcOp as a beacon of hope for the population they serve in the greater Memphis area.

2PC Ministry–Memphis Fellows: The Fellows Program is a nine-month spiritual and vocational leadership program that prepares recent college graduates to live a seamless life of faith. This year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Memphis Fellows program at Second Presbyterian Church and now celebrate our new graduates: Grace Coates, KenTonya Cox, Allison Jackson, Meg McGaha, Lauren Miley, Macy Tidmore, and Hannah Weber. We rejoice that they each committed to being in Memphis for the past nine months. Please pray for each of these women that they invest in their local church, continue to deepen their faith, surround themselves with Christian community, and serve the city where they are planted. We pray with gratitude for our Fellows committee and each host family, mentor, and work placement. We ask for prayers for our incoming class, that the Lord will be glorified in and through each of them.

May Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this month are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of: *Dorothy Street Sherman* by her sons, Dr. Phillip Sherman, Jr. and Hugh Street Sherman; *Dr. Gerald Freeman Billions* by his loving family; *Libbee Clifford* by her family; *Sara Misner* by her daughter; *Robert Tipton, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. George Dunklin* by Deborah and Mary Tipton; *Virginia and Ralph Braden* by their children and grandchildren; *Virginia Buchman Smith* by the Nearn family and the Smith family; and *W. P. "Buddy" Morrison* by his family.

Help Us Prepare for Vacation Bible School!

Vacation Bible School is coming soon: June 1-4. Participant registration is open through Wednesday, May 20. Also, there are many ways to support VBS before the week begins! Donate individually wrapped snacks, provide treats for the Volunteer Hospitality Room, sponsor a teen helper t-shirt, or help with setup and tear-down. Visit 2pc.org/vbs for specific details, to register a child or Shine participant, and/or to sign up to help.

Join Us in Prayer: Please join us in asking God to do great things in the lives of children and their families this year at VBS! Specifically, we are asking God for:

- Five new families to be welcomed into 2PC and join our church
- Five children to make a decision to trust and follow Jesus as their Savior

VBS Sunday: We look forward to having our VBS participants lead us in worship at 8:15 a.m. on June 7 for VBS Sunday! We'll close out the week that evening with another Gathering on the Grounds at 5:00 p.m. on the Poplar Field.

Splash Into Summer at Second

Activities on campus for children abound this summer, from VBS and Library Story Time to Rejoice Music Arts Camp in June and Family Art Day on July 21. The Second Conservatory of Music will also host a summer session of lessons for all ages.

In addition, our youth will meet for Bible study and games, and Campus Outreach has some wonderful connection events planned for college students.

For adults, Crossroads young adults will meet for weekly Bible studies, Women in Ministry has a few options for fellowship and studying the Word, and our Senior Adult Ministry invites all ages to a summer concert and dinner on July 9.

And beginning June 1, back by popular demand, our kitchen will offer a variety of frozen casseroles and soups.

Visit 2pc.org/summer for more information!

General Fund Giving Update

	This Year Budget	This Year Actual	Variance to Budget	Prior Year Actual	Variance to Prior Year
April	\$ 846,264	\$ 818,602	\$ (27,662)	\$ 538,508	\$ 280,094
YTD 7/1/25-4/30/26	\$ 9,257,908	\$ 8,655,039	\$ (602,869)	\$ 7,954,517	\$ 700,522

*\$2,296,523 is needed to meet the giving budget
for the fiscal year ending June 30.*

Do You Receive *The Messenger* on Fridays?

The best way to find out what's going on at Second is to subscribe to our weekly email newsletter. To subscribe, simply scroll to the orange box at the bottom of our homepage (2pc.org) and enter your name and email address—then watch for it to arrive in your inbox on Fridays! For even more content, follow @2pcmemphis on Facebook and Instagram.

Getting Connected at Second

Want to learn more about our church? Visit 2pc.org, call us at (901) 454-0034, or email us: pastor@2pc.org for pastoral questions or info@2pc.org for general inquiries. We'd love to hear from you!



Retell. Reimagine. Repair.